



中華海外生態學者協會
Sino-Ecologists Club Overseas

NEWSLETTER OF SINO-ECO CLUB OVERSEAS

December 20, 2002

TABLE OF CONTENTS	Page
A Message from the Sino-Eco President	2
News on Sino-Eco Members	3
Reports from Sino-Eco Members	4
Announcements	5
Ecological Literature	7
Photo Essays	8
Recent Publications	9
Special Column: Job Hunting	10
Sino-Eco Memberships	13
Editor Notes	13

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A MESSAGE FROM THE SINO-ECO PRESIDENT

At this special holiday season when the white snow covers the most of the country, from sunny, warm Florida, on behalf of 2002-2004 committee, I would like to extend my best wishes to you and your family. Wish you all have a happy and safe holiday.

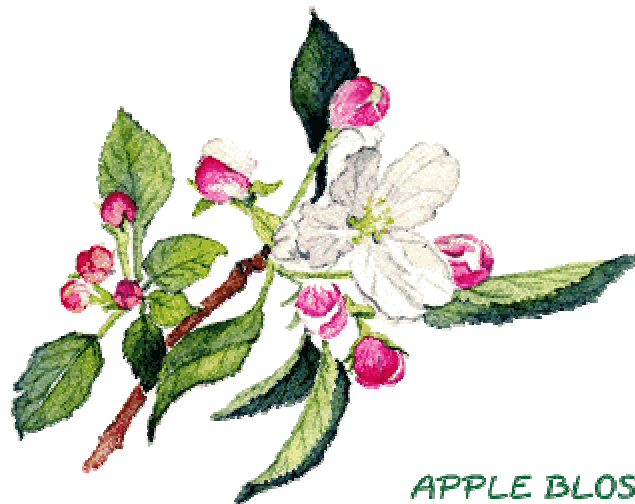
The holiday season is always filled with joy, love, and appreciation. I am greatly appreciated your trust that had allow me to serve the club. I am also grateful for the full support and enthusiasm of a large group of dedicated fellow friends and members, so that we can have our informative website and entertaining newsletters. As a result, our Club is attracting more and more members and moving forward to function maturely as a professional organization. Finally, I would like to acknowledge our 14 members who will attend the Guangzhou workshop during Dec.27 and 29 2000. Most of them will be away from their families during the traditional and precious family reunion moment. I highly value and am extremely proud of their dedication and contribution to the exchange of their research with the ecologists in China.

In the past few weeks, these members submitted their high quality abstracts. Right now, they are preparing for their oral presentations. Their presentations cover a variety of topics of ecosystem restoration, from extensive reviews of succession theories, landscape ecological principles, and optimal ecosystem management to in depth field reports of wetlands, terrestrial forests, riparian habitats, and grassland and savanna ecosystems. I am excited about and looking forward to learning from these interesting presentations.

The year 2003 is rapidly approaching. Next year will be the 15th anniversary of our Club. Hope the 15 years of history will bring our Club to a new stage.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Shili Miao



APPLE BLOSSOM
Malus sylvestris Mill.

BRIEF NEWS ON SINO-ECO MEMBERS

Chanjiang (Yangtze River) Scholar

Dr. Yiqi Luo was recently approved by Chinese Minister of Education as a guest Chanjiang (Yangtze River) Scholar of Fudan University.

Editorial Board Member

Dr. Changhui Peng has been recently appointed as a Member of the Editorial Board for the international journal of "Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies for Global Change"

Symposium Organizer

Dr. Qian Hong has been selected as one of the organizers of the Symposium "Phytogeography of Northeast Asia: tasks for the 21st century", organized by Institute of Biology & Soil Science (Russia), Tokyo University of Agriculture (Japan), Andong National University (Rep. Korea), Illinois State Museum (USA) and Vladivostok Botanical Garden (Russia) will be held in Vladivostok, Russia, from 21 July to 25 July 2003.

Chief Editor of a New International Journal

Ecological Complexity, a new international journal is planned to launch in early 2004 by the publisher Elsevier Science. This international journal devotes to the publication of high quality, peer-reviewed articles on all aspects of biocomplexity in the environment, theoretical ecology, and special issues on topics of current interest. The scope of the journal is wide and interdisciplinary with an integrated and quantitative approach. The journal particularly encourages submission of papers that integrate natural and social processes at appropriately broad

spatio-temporal scales. The Editor-in-Chief is Bai-Lian (Larry) Li, Associate Editors are Craig Loehle and Horst Malchow, and about 16 international editorial board members. The detailed information about this journal including web submission will be available in spring 2003. If you would like to consider to contribute your paper to this new journal, please contact the editor at bai-lian.li@ucr.edu. News

Sino-Eco Members Attended the State Banquet

Dr. Yegang Wu (South Florida Water Management District) and Dr. Junda Lin (Florida Institute of Technology), among about 40 overseas delegates, were invited to attend the "Meeting of Overseas Chinese Professional Organization Leaders", jointly sponsored by the Western Returned Scholars Association (WRSA) and the China Overseas Friendship Association, from September 28 to 30 in Beijing. The invited delegates described their organizations and professional activities, their efforts in promoting relationships between China and other countries, and their involvement in the economic development of China in recent years. Senior Chinese government officials met with the delegates and encouraged more contributions from overseas and returned scholars. We also participated in the celebration activities of the 53rd anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

(Based on materials provided by Junda Lin)

REPORTS FROM SIN-ECO MEMBERS

Sino-Eco Member Visited Guangdong

Dr. Adam Wei visited China and Hong Kong on November 2-9, 2002 on behalf of Okanagan University College's British Columbia Freshwater Institute. This visit was part of the Canadian Environmental Technology Mission to China and Hong



Kong. Two days of our visit was associated with the Canada-Hong Kong Fast Track mission for Canadian environment technology companies. Three days were spent in Guangdong province of China in Guangzhou and Shenzhen city. The purpose of the Mission was to understand the needs of environmental technologies in China and to foster partnership between China and Canada. There are two things which Adam was impressed the most including: the very delicious food in Guangzhou and the beauty of Shenzhen. (Contributed by Adam Wei)

VIII INTECOL held in Seoul, South Korea

During August 11-18, our member, Qinfeng Guo, represented USGS and attended the VIII INTECOL in Seoul, South Korea (Jingle Wu also attended the meeting and gave an excellent presentation). He then co-organized a US-China joint workshop on invasive species at the Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS; Sept. 3), and discussed with colleagues about the USGS (BRD) -CAS (Bureau of Biol. & Biol. Tech)

Protocol on long-term cooperative ecological research. During the meetings, many areas of potential opportunities of collaboration were discussed. The importance of trans-Pacific biological invasion studies was especially addressed due to the great similarity of climates and range of habitats between China and the U.S. Before his return to the US on Sept. 10, he was also invited to visit the Dinghu and Xiaoliang Mountains for an on-site visit by SCIB, CAS (Sept. 4-5).

(Contributed by Qinfeng Guo)

International Symposium on Urban Forestry and Eco-Cities in Shanghai

The International Symposium on Urban Forestry and Eco-Cities was held in Shanghai during September 16-22, 2002. The symposium was organized by East China Normal University, Shanghai Municipal Agricultural Commission, and Shanghai Agriculture and Forestry Bureau. The themes of the symposium were: (1) Features of urban forests and their roles in the planning and designing of eco-cities; (2) Theory and practice in urban forestry; (3) Case studies of urban afforestation; (4) Management of urban forests and ecology of urban trees; (5) Approaches and methods for assessing urban forests. The mayor of Shanghai and the President of Chinese Academy of Forestry (Jiang Zehui) were among the speakers of the opening session. Besides several dozens of scientists and experts from within China (including 3 academicians: Yang Hanxi, Jiang Youxu, and Lin Peng), over 20 urban ecologists and practitioners from U.S.A., Germany, U.K., Canada, Japan, and several other countries were invited to give presentations at the symposium. In addition to presentations and discussions, the participants also visited several city parks and ecological restoration sites, and made a number of suggestions to the local

government on the environmental and urban planning and management of the city of Shanghai. An edited book will be published in English based on a selection of the presentations at the Shanghai symposium (Editors-in-Chief: Yongchang Song and Jianguo Wu). If you are interested, some photos and movie clips taken during the symposium are available at <http://LEML.asu.edu> (News and Events).

(Contributed by Jianguo Wu)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Geoinformatics'2003



**The 11th International Conference on Geoinformatics'2003
Toronto, Canada**

June 25-27, 2003

Advanced Geoinformatics: Linking Pacific Rims to the World

Named one of the world's best cities in which to live by Fortune magazine, Toronto is known as a safe and friendly city. [Toronto](#) is not only a major cultural centre, it is also [Canada's](#) centre for business and finance. This event provides a unique gathering place for geospatial professionals and practitioners from all disciplines to exchange experience

and knowledge. It is an excellent vehicle to facilitate the development of Geoinformatics science and technology in the pacific rims, the most fast growing region in the world.

Conference Venue

[Ryerson University](#), Toronto, Canada. [Located](#) in the heart of downtown Toronto, within walking distance of [music](#), [movies](#), [theatres](#), [great food](#), [great shopping](#), and international [attractions](#).

Organizers

York University, Canada

Ryerson University, Canada

University of Toronto, Canada

The International Association of Chinese Professionals in Geographical Information Science (CPGIS)

The International Association of Chinese Professionals in Global Positioning Systems (CPGPS)

Technical Committee

Chair, Dr. C. Vincent Tao, York Univ.

Co-Chair, Dr. Qiuming Chen, York Univ.

Co-chair, Dr. Jingming Chen, Univ of Toronto

Dr. Kefei Zhang, RMIT Univ, Australia

Dr. Xiangyun Hu, York University

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Dr. Aining Zhang, NRCan, Canada

Dr. Fuqun Zhou, NRCan, Canada

Dr. Yun Zhang, Univ of New Brunswick

Organizing Committee

Chair, Dr. Songnian Li, Ryerson University

Co-Chair, Dr. Jonathan Li, Ryerson University

Co-Chair, Dr. Ko Fung, Canada Centre for Remote Sensing

Co-Chair, Dr. Yifang Ban, York University

Dr. Yubin Xin, PCI Geomatics

Dr. Huayi Wu, York University
Dr. Jingfei Wang, University of Western
Ontario
Dr. Jianguo Wang, Applanix Corporation

Conference Themes

Geoinformatics covers a broad range of topics in geospatial sciences, technologies, and applications (not limited to):

- Web-based distributed services
- Geoinformatics for global change and ecosystem sustainability
- Location based services (LBS)
- Information extraction from remote sensing data
- Data fusion and digital mapping
- 3D and 4D spatial data modeling
- Integration of environmental modeling and GIS
- Surveying, geodesy and remote sensing applications of GPS
- Indoor GPS location
- Multi-sensor integrated navigation systems
- Kinematic positioning, navigation and location technology
- Applications of GIS, RS and GPS in nature resources management
- Multispectral, hyperspectral and multi-angle Remote Sensing Applications

Registration Fees

\$ 200 USD for CPGIS/GPS members
\$ 240 USD for non CPGIS/GPS members
\$ 120 USD for students (\$100 for CPGIS/GPS student members) and seniors (60 yrs +)

The registration package includes conference publications, three lunches, coffee breaks and a banquet.

Important Due Dates

28 January 2003: Abstracts (max 200 words)
15 March 2003: Acceptance Notice
30 April 2003: Final Manuscripts

Please send abstracts to

Dr. Huayi Wu, hwu@yorku.ca
GeoICT Lab, York University

Contact Information

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Symposium "Phytogeography of Northeast Asia: tasks for the 21st century", organized

by Institute of Biology & Soil Science (Russia), Tokyo University of Agriculture (Japan), Andong National University (Rep. Korea), Illinois State Museum (USA) and Vladivostok Botanical Garden (Russia) will be held in Vladivostok, Russia, from 21 July to 25 July 2003. The hundred-year phytogeographical study of Far Eastern vegetation, undertaken in China, Japan, Korea and Russia, has resulted in accumulation of great knowledge. Nevertheless, political, cultural and methodological differences have created many disagreements in terms and theories. The purpose of the symposium is not only to exchange knowledge but also to find common points in theories and a basis for the future study of East Asian vegetation as a whole phytogeographical unit. The main topics are expected to include:

1. Phytogeographical concepts and applications
2. Structure of the vegetation cover
3. Floristics and floristic regionalization
4. Vegetation dynamics in a changing environment: history and prognoses
5. Synthesis of vegetation data through large-scale comparisons

Papers on these topics, as well as your proposals of new subjects to be discussed

during the Symposium, are welcomed. Please find the information on symposium, hard copy of first circular = and the form for registration at:
<http://www.geopacifica.org/symposium>

Field trip code: WCNZ009

Title: Landscapes in Aotearoa/New Zealand

Start location: Auckland, New Zealand

Dates of trip: 19th Saturday to 26th Saturday
July 2003

Name of Organiser: Larry GUO, [Landcare Research NZ Ltd.](http://LandcareResearch.NZ.Ltd) A Crown Research Institute of New Zealand. Private Bag 3127, Gate 10 Silverdale Road, Hamilton, New Zealand; Ph: +64 7 8583742; Fax: +64 7 8583964; Email: GuoL@LandcareResearch.co.nz

(Provided by Larry Guo)

ECOLOGICAL LITERATURE

Ode to a microzone

Oh, little fishy in the sea,
How good it is of you to pee.
For when the nitrate is all gone,
Production still can linger on.
The “new” production ends at haste—
Regenerated is not a waste.

Oh, ammonia, and urea,
God, it’s mighty good to see ya.
I’ll suck you up in record time.

By Kristin T. Bezdek (Limnology and Oceanography, 34: page 648, 1989)

Effects of this shan’t be sublime.
For you support the standing stock—
And keep me out of nutrient shock.

Ammonia is my choicest fare.
I’ll take urea if it’s there.
Nitrogen deficient or near replete,
Put it there so I can eat.
When laying in a pool of nitrate,
Assimilation is the sure fate.
Only this I use to grow,
But I don’t like it—No, no, NO....
Little fishy swimming by,
Your microzone, my teary eye.

I think bacteria loves you too.
Though this, it seems, may not be true.
Urea uptake only by algae??
Or is this just some bad nostalgia??
In this regard, I must confess,
The literature is quite a mess.
Some say procaryotes, some say no way,
Bacterial night, and plankton day??

A scientist sang a different tune,
Or was it just a shimmery moon?
Problems of isotope dilution:
Double labeling – the solution.
Price & Harris came along,
And put a bad note in the song.
N-fifteen goes into protein.
Sugar comes from C-fourteen.
Uptake rates may not be equal—
Herein lies the bitter sequel—
Oh, urea, child of hope,
You must perceive me quite the dope.

PHOTO ESSAYS



The Beautiful Dead

Detritus is often one of the largest compartment in ecosystems. It serves as a major source of energy and materials for heterotrophs in many food webs and often stabilize the system. The role of detrital link in food webs was long ignored and is one of major question in Quan's current research.

(Contributed by Quan Dong)

Splendid Nature

Sunshine, palm trees, and oranges are well-known natural and landscape features in Florida. However, not many people know about dazzling rainbow there. Look at this splendid rainbow and eye-catching full moon. It is our duty to protect our natural environments.

(Contributed by Shili Miao)



Succession of Saguaro Cactus Community



Early stage of cactus population



Young cactus with their nursery tree



Mature cactus population (forefront) at the valley.
The cactus population will move up the hill.

(provided by Shili Miao)

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Bai-Lian (Larry) Li

Anand, M. and B. L. Li. On emergent properties, mathematical artifacts and power laws. *Community Ecology* 3(2): 249-252.

Lin, Z. S. and B. L. Li. 2002. The maximum sustainable yield of Allee dynamic system. *Ecol. Modell.* 154: 1-7.

Lin, Z. S. and B. L. Li. 2002. On the minimum cost of evolutionary strategy response to environmental stress. *J. Environ. Sci.* 14(3): 333-338.

Medvinsky, A. B., S. Petrovskii, I. A. Tikhonova, H. Malchow, and B. L. Li. 2002. Spatiotemporal complexity of plankton and fish dynamics. *SIAM Review* 44(3): 311-370.

Shiqiang Wan

Wan, S., T. Yuan, S. Bowdish, L. Wallace, S. D. Russell, and Y. Luo. 2002. Response of an allergic species, *Ambrosia psilostochya*, to experimental warming and clipping: Implications for public health under global change. *American Journal of Botany* 89(11): 1843-1846.

Peng Changhui

Zhang, L., C.H., Peng, S. Huang and X. Zhou (2002). Evaluation of ecoregion-based tree height-diameter models for jack pine in Ontario. *Forestry Chronicle*, 78: 530-538.

Jiang, H., M.J. Apps, C.H. Peng, Y., Zhang and J. X. Liu (2002). Assessing the effects of harvesting on boreal forest carbon dynamics:

an example from China. *Forest Ecology and Management*, 169: 65-82.

Liu, J.X., C.H., Peng, M.J. Apps, Q.L. Dang, E. Banfield and W. Kurz (2002). Historic carbon budget of Ontario's Forest ecosystems. *Forest Ecology and Management*, 103-114.

SPECIAL COLUMN: JOB HUNTING

Some Advice to the First-Time Job Seekers

Junda Lin

Many of Sino-Eco members are entering the job seeking (or hunting) stage. As one who has landed a permanent job recently, I would like to share my experiences and provide some suggestions.

Let your mentors, colleagues, and friends know that you are looking for a job and kinds of job you are seeking, as many positions are only locally advertised. Apply for as many jobs as you can, even for those you do not think that you are competitive. I applied for many jobs in my latest round of job seeking, and hoped to get one of the two best ones (both academic positions), although I was not optimistic. However, I got offer from both places (in fact the only offers during that last round!) whereas all the other applications fell through. Of course, do not apply for the ones that you are not interested in or clearly not qualified for.

Pay attention to your resume writing, including content, format, language, and length. Do not be modest. Of course, do not exaggerate either. Go over your resume with your mentor and/or colleagues. If you are looking for an academic position, try to build

up publication and grant-funding records. These are very important. At least try to be a junior partner (co-PI or associate PI) in grant writing.

One thing unique to us is that many employers have legitimate concerns about our language (English) capabilities, for more and more positions require good oral and/or writing communication skills. Make sure to tell your references to write your communication skills in the recommendation letters. Also, you may call the employer to express your interest and in the meantime demonstrate your level of oral skills. Keep a good record of all the positions you apply, so when a potential employer contacts you would not forget what the position is about, or worse yet, forget that you have applied for that job. This is all too common nowadays since one usually applies for many positions. If you are caught off guard, be calm and ask if you could call him (her) back.

Interview is very important. Be confident and honest. Dress properly. If not sure, dress formally. Be formal (address Dr., Mr., Ms., etc.) in the first meeting. Be prepared for the seminar (if applicable). Practice the talk several times. Ask your colleagues to sit in your practice and give constructive and honest criticism. Use good quality slides rather than overheads. Don't talk fast; especially don't give a long seminar. People hate long talks no matter how interesting it is. In the seminar, be sure to relate your experiences and knowledge to the job you are applying for. Show interest in the institution, research fields of interviewers, laboratory and facilities. During interview, also ask if they can show you around the city (town). Upon return, send them a postcard or letter thanking them for the hospitality and opportunity, your impression of the place, etc.

When you are offered a job, make sure that you agree to the terms before accepting it. For academic jobs, not only starting salary and fringe benefits (health insurance, retirement, etc.), but also start-up funds, teaching load, laboratory set-up, and facilities. Find out from your major advisor, department head, or journals (The Chronicle of Higher Education and Academe) what the ranges of start-up salaries in your field are. Also find out what kinds of start-up fund are common. Use those information to negotiate. Dick Tracy of Colorado State University advised that when asked what salary you feel you need to be attracted to the job, say "of course, the job is more important than the salary, but others with my qualifications are being offered \$xx,xxx. Also find out the relative loads of teaching, research, and "service" and how these are weighted in evaluation for raise and promotion. Request a reduced teaching load in the first year if possible. Do NOT negotiate until you have the offer in writing. Also remember that you will never (well, never say never) be in as a good negotiating position again. I was too timid to demand start-up fund and laboratory set-up (I asked politely and quickly withdrew when was told "no") and waited almost a year before my laboratory was finished. Put the terms (start-up fund amount, when the equipment/lab space will be available) in writing. Of course, be positive and respectful during the negotiation process and you will in turn gain the respect of your "bosses" and get a good start on your new career.

Cover Letters: 10 Dos & Don'ts
by Megan Malugani

First impressions count in the job search, and that's why a dynamite cover letter can mean the difference between success and failure. But what makes a dazzling cover letter? Several healthcare career experts shared their

advice with HMonster.
DO:

1. Get to the Point.

State the purpose of your letter in the first paragraph. Small talk is generally a waste of space. "Most of the cover letters we do for clients are three paragraphs or so and fill less than a page," says Shel Horowitz, director of Accurate Writing & More in Hadley, Massachusetts.

2. Tailor Your Letter to the Reader.

Focus on the needs of the specific healthcare organization, not on your own requirements as a job seeker, says Lorna Lindsey, director of academic affairs for CompHealth, a healthcare recruiting and staffing firm based in Salt Lake City. Visit your potential employer's Web site or read the company's annual report to learn more about it, and then use your cover letter to demonstrate how your skills and experience can benefit the organization.

3. Maintain a Friendly Yet Businesslike Tone.

A cover letter should be "businesslike, friendly and enthusiastic," says Bill Frank, founder of CareerLab in Denver and author of Two Hundred Letters for Job Hunters. Health professionals have the "opportunity to reveal their passion" through a cover letter, but the document "shouldn't become too syrupy, or it loses its objectivity and professionalism," says Dr. Lorne Weeks, a healthcare consultant for the Physician Career Network, a division of CareerLab.

4. Make It Memorable.

New graduates can make their cover letters stand out by personalizing their stories. If you

decided to model your career after a physical therapist who helped a family member, for example, tell that story rather than making the blander claim that you've always wanted to help people. "If your story is unique, it's no longer a cliché," says Frank.

5. Stay on Track.

The best cover letters are direct and concise, says Kathy Campbell, employment and employee relations manager at Holy Spirit Health System in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania. "Don't include a lot of unnecessary personal information," she says.

6. Highlight Your Biggest Successes.

Your cover letter shouldn't just summarize your career or repeat the same information from your resume, says Wendy Enelow, president of Career Masters Institute in Lynchburg, Virginia. "You want it to highlight the successes and achievements of your career that are most related to the types of positions for which you are applying." According to Frank, you should mention career-related "triples and home runs" in your cover letter.

7. Use Power Phrases.

Use strong action words to convey your experiences and illustrate your qualifications with phrases like "I have a strong background in" and "I have a talent for," says Lindsey. Don't be shy about selling yourself, Enelow says, since that's the purpose of a cover letter.

8. Show Your Team Spirit.

If you have room for a few extra sentences in your cover letter, emphasize your teamwork and communication skills, Lindsey says. "In this day and age, teamwork and

communication are vitally important in almost every healthcare position, from the lowest to the highest paid."

9. Spice up Your Writing.

Effective cover letters are a little different from all the others but still straightforward, experts say. For example, the boring, traditional way to begin a cover letter is: "I am writing in response to your advertisement on HMonster for a nurse and have enclosed my resume for your review." The better opener could be: "Your ad on HMonster for a nurse captured my attention and motivated me to learn more about this opportunity." Then describe how your qualifications match the employer's needs.

10. Follow Up.

An unforgivable error made by some job seekers is failing to follow up after promising to do so in a cover letter. If you write in your cover letter that you'll call the letter recipient on a certain day or by a specific deadline, do it!

DON'T:

1. Provide salary information when it is not requested.
2. Address a letter recipient by anything other than his or her name (and avoid "Dear Sirs" at all costs).
3. Write a canned, generic letter that looks like it was copied from a book.
4. Start the first paragraph and too many other sentences with "I."
5. Make spelling errors and typos.
6. Hand write or type a cover letter.
7. Use shoddy paper, or paper that's different from your resume paper.
8. Cram too much information into a small space.

9. Include irrelevant personal information or job experience.
10. Overstate your accomplishments or contradict your resume.

(Provided by Junda Lin)

A useful website Tomorrow's Professors:
<http://ctl.stanford.edu/Tomprof/index.shtml>

The web site provides a well organized set of themes:

- Tomorrow's Academy
- Tomorrow's Graduate Students and Postdocs
- Tomorrow's Academic Careers
- Tomorrow's Teaching and Learning
- Tomorrow's Research
-

(Provided by Dr. Junda Lin)

SINO-ECO CLUB MEMBERSHIPS

Any individual with Chinese origin and at least one year of overseas professional in ecological fields, willing to recognize and follow the bylaws and paying the membership dues, shall be deemed to be eligible as a member. The due for Regular and Student Members in developed countries will be \$10 and \$5, respectively, for those in developing countries will be \$5 and waived, respectively. For new members, dues paid before March 1 will cover the current year and the following year; those paid between Oct. 1 and Feb.28 will be half of the due and will cover the current year. Donation is greatly appreciated. Please fill in the application form which may be downloaded from: <http://www.sino-eco.org/current/membership.htm> and sent it, with your check payable to SINO-ECO, to the treasurer (2002-4): Dr. Zhong Chen, School of Forestry, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ 86011-5018 (US Dollars or equal foreign country's currency).

EDITOR NOTES

This is the last issue of SINO-ECO Club newsletter for year 2002. We have removed "Job Opportunities" column from the newsletter to the Sin-Eco website so job advertisements are posted at a timely manner. In this issue, we have a special column for the job seekers and also open a new column called "Photo Essays". We appreciate those members who contributed valuable information to this issue. We wish all of our members and readers of the SINO-ECO Club newsletter have happy holidays and are looking forward to hearing from all of you next year.

